

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSC-01

/067 W

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R 091658Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9386

UNCLAS CARACAS 6990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE CU

SUBJ: CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

REF: CARACAS 6562

1. AMBASSADOR NORBERTO HERNANDEZ CURBELO, CUBA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA SINCE 1960, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT PEREZ JULY 7. HE PREVIOUSLY, ON JULY 4, MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM. AS IN CUSTOMARY HERE, HERNANDEZ MAKE NO FORMAL STATEMENT WHEN HE MET WITH PEREZ.

2. HERNANDEZ TOLD PRESS JULY 4 HE HAD EVERY INTENTION TO STRENGTHENING THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN CUBA AND VENEZUELA. ONE MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS HE SAID, WOULD BE THVOUGH CULTURAL EXCHANGES. CONCERNING THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, HERNANDEZ STATED CUBA "ON PRINCIPLE" SUPPORTS THE NATIONALIZATION NOT ONLY OF PETROLEUM BUT OF ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF WHATEVER COUNTRY. HERNANDEZ ALSO SAID CUBA PRIME MINISTER CASTRO WAS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LATIN AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR CARACAS AND "WILL ATTEND THE MEETING IF IT IS HELD."

3. THE SUBJECT OF CASTRO'S ATTENDANCE AT THE CARACAS SUMMIT CAME UP JULY 8 DURING A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE BY ESCOVAR.

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ESCOVAR INDICATED THAT, AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED, ALL LATIN

AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE "MAY PARTICIPATE." NOTING THAT THE SUMMIT WILL BE CALLED A CHIEFS OF STATE CONFERENCE, ESCOVAR SAID CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE. CASTRO'S ATTENDANCE WOULD BE UP TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED. ASKED WHETHER HE PLANNED A VISIT TO CUBA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ESCOVAR REPLIED "NOT RIGHT NOW."

4. COMMENT. IN THAT PEREZ RECEIVED AMBASSADOR HERNANDEZ THIRTEEN DAYS FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN VENEZUELA, NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE TIMING OF THE CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION. ALTHOUGH SOME RECENT CREDENTIALS CEREMONIES (US, BRITISH) HAVE OCCURRED IN LESS TIME THAN TEN DAYS, HERNANDEZ'S RECEPTION WAS NOT FAR OFF THE AVERAGE. SHLAUDEMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA06990
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750237-0948
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750770/aaaackps.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CARACAS 6562
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VE, CU, (HERNANDEZ CURBELO, NORBERTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006